05-06 IDPR AVALANCHE AWARENESS CLASSES SCHEDULE

DATE:	LOCATION:	TYPE:	TIME:
November 02	Idaho Falls – Region Office	Classroom	6p – 8p
January 28	Idaho Falls – Big Holes	Field	9a – 3p
November 16	Boise – Shakespeare Theater	Classroom	6p – 8p
February 18	Boise - Cascade – West Mountain	Field	9a – 3p
January 06	Coeur d' Alene – Region Office	Classroom	6p – 8p
January 07	Coeur d' Alene – TBD	Field	9a – 3p
January 13	Grangeville – Forest Service Bldg	Classroom	6p – 8p
January 14	Grangeville – Fish Creek	Field	9a – 3p
January 20	Gerties Brick Oven Cookery	Classroom	6p – 8p
January 21	Twin Falls – South Hills	Field	9a – 3p
January 27	Idaho Falls – Region Office	Classroom	6p – 8p
January 28	Idaho Falls – Big Holes	Field	9a – 3p
February 03	Preston – Robinson Building	Classroom	6p – 8p
February 04	Preston – Copenhagen Parking lot	Field	9a – 3p
February 10	Lewiston – Hells Gate State Park	Classroom	6p – 8p
February 11	Lewiston – Craig Mountain	Field	9a – 3p
February 17	Cascade – American Legion Hall	Classroom	6p – 8p
February 18	Cascade – West Mountain	Field	9a – 3p
February 24	Priest Lake – Priest Lake State Park	Classroom	6p – 8p
February 25	Priest Lake – TBD	Field	9a – 3p

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

East Region Office – 4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls ID (208) 525-7121
North Region Office – 2750 Kathleen Avenue Suite 1, Coeur d'Alene ID (208) 769-1511
South Region Office – 5657 Warm Springs Avenue, Boise ID (208) 334-4199
Priest Lake State Park – 314 Indian Creek Park Road, Coolin ID (208) 443-2200
Hells Gate State Park – 4832 Hells Gate Road, Lewiston ID (208) 799-5015
Nez Perce National Forest – Forest Service Bldg Rte 2 Grangeville ID(208) 983-1950
Cascade – American Legion Hall 105 East Mill Street, Cascade, ID
Twin Falls – 602 2 Avenue South Twin Falls, ID (208)736-9110
Preston – Robinson Building 186 West 200 North Preston, Idaho

AVALANCHE AWARENESS COURSE OUTLINE

CLASSROOM:

- Why avalanche awareness
- When and where avalanches happen
- Anatomy of an avalanche
- Avalanche factors: what conditions cause an avalanche
- How to determine if the snowpack is safe
- Avalanche gear
- Tips for avalanche survival
- Avalanche factor quick checks

FIELD:

- Identify avalanche terrain
- Identify basic grain types, weak layers and strong layers
- Perform field tests to determine snowpack stability/instability
- Avalanche Gear Practical Use
  - Using an inclinometer
  - Using a shovel
  - Using a probe
  - Using a beacon
- Why/How to dig a hasty pit?
  - Strength/stability tests
    - Hand hardness
    - Shovel shear test
    - Compression Test for Snow Stability
- Recognize weather and terrain factors contributing to instability
- Perform rescue through fast and efficient transceiver use
  - Beacon Practice
    - Beacon searches have three phases
      - Finding the signal
      - Narrow the search area to 6 feet
      - Deciding where to dig
- Apply safe travel techniques

EIGHT STEPS TO REDUCING YOUR AVALANCHE RISK

1. **Get smart!** The smart first step is to learn from the avalanche experts. This will take a commitment of time and effort on your part. Divide the task into three parts. First, do some reading. Second, check out the videos on avalanche safety. Third, take an avalanche course.

2. **Utilize your resources.**
- WWW.AVALANCHE.ORG
- SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE CENTER (208) 622-8027
- IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS AVALANCHE CENTER (208) 765-7323
- PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE CENTER (208) 634-0409

3. **Identify avalanche terrain.** Avalanches run repeatedly year after year in the same areas -- slopes called avalanche paths. Avalanches most often start on slopes of 30-45 degrees but sometimes start on slopes as shallow as 25 degrees and as steep as 50 degrees. Knowing the slope angle is "rule number one" in recognizing avalanche terrain, for once slope angles reach 30 degrees, you are in potential avalanche terrain regardless of all other factors.

4. **Read nature's signs.** Sometimes the snow shows clear and present danger signs of avalanche. Some signs are a fresh avalanche, snow collapsing beneath you or creating noticable cracks. Some weather signs that the hazard could be worsening fast are heavy snowfall -- more than one inch per hour -- or strong winds creating blowing snow and snow plumes off the ridges.

Keep observing and evaluating all day long. Keep asking yourself these four questions: Is the terrain capable of producing an avalanche? Could the snow slide? Is the weather contributing to instability? Is there a safer route?

5. **Test the snow.** Look for test slopes where you can dig snowpits and perform stress tests. A test slope is a small, steep slope -- preferably 30 degrees or steeper -- where you will not be in danger of causing an avalanche, but is close to a larger slope that you are concerned about. You can learn all about snowpits while attending Idaho Parks and Recreations Avalanche Awareness course.

6. **Travel smart.** There are several rules of backcountry travel that will help to minimize your avalanche risk.
One at a time. Only one person at a time should go onto the slope.
Avoid the center. The greatest danger on any steep slope comes when you are in the middle of it.
Stay on shallow slopes. You can always travel on avalanche-free slopes up to 25 degrees.
Never ride alone.

7. **Take your pulse.** In other words, check your attitude. It can get you in trouble. Are you so goal-oriented -- to climb this peak or highmark that slope -- that you are willing to take unwarranted risk? Do not overlook clear and present danger signs! Do not fall into peer pressure! Are you letting haste or fatigue get you in trouble? To prevent accidents from happening, you must control the human factor in your decision-making. Know your limitations.

8. **Be ready for rescue.** There are three parts to the rescue equation that will reduce your risk: what equipment to carry, what to do if you are caught, and what to do if a friend is caught.

Rescue gear. A snow shovel, probe and an avalanche rescue beacon are the items that everyone who goes into steep terrain should not be without.

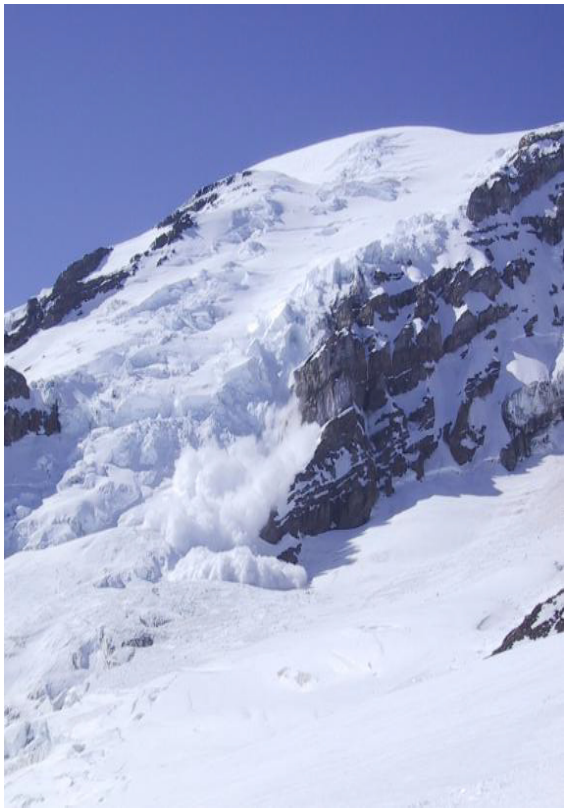
If you are caught. It's always best to avoid getting caught in the first place, for the speeds and forces that avalanche victims are subject to can cause severe harm even if the group is prepared for rescue. Still though, there are things you can do. Work to escape to the side, grab a tree, or swim with the moving snow. If you can't make it to the surface, try to make (before the avalanche stops) an airspace in front of your face, which will give you breathing space. If all goes well, your companions will find you quickly with their beacons, probes and shovels. Stay Calm!

If a friend is caught. Watch the victim during descent. Go immediately to the last-seen area, search for surface clues and search downhill from there. Turn your beacon to receive and pick up the signal. **Do not abandon the search or send searchers out for additional help: You are the buried victim's best chance for survival.**

AVALANCHE AWARENESS

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

2005 - 2006



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www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov